Meetings focus on Grand plan

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The Arizona Department of Transportation, in conjunction with Peoria, Glendale and Phoenix, will have a series of public meetings on possible improvements to Grand Avenue that are being considered for implementation within the next few years.

The study, which began last summer, evaluates potential improvements along Grand Avenue from Loop 101 (Agua Fria Freeway) to McDowell Road for construction in Phase I (2006-2010) of the voter-approved Regional Transportation Plan for Maricopa County.

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday - 6 to 8 p.m., Peoria City Hall, Pine Meeting Room, 8401 W. Monroe St., Peoria.

Thursday - 6 to 8 p.m., Sunset Vista Elementary School, Multi-purpose Room, 7775 W. Orangewood Ave., Glendale.

July 8 - 6 to 8 p.m., Encanto Park Clubhouse, 2605 N. 15th Ave., Phoenix.

A brief presentation will begin 30 minutes after the start of the meeting. Information provided at each of the meetings will focus on the proposed Grand Avenue improvements within the city where the meeting is conducted. However, information about projects in the other cities will be available. The public will have an opportunity to learn about and comment on the proposed improvements. Members of the study team will be available to answer questions about the projects being evaluated for each of the cities.

Improvements identified in the study are in addition to the upcoming widening projects from Loop 303 to 83rd Avenue, which will expand Grand Avenue to three lanes in each direction by 2011. Construction of the widening projects is expected to begin next year.